

## Among the Books

### "Britanny and the Bretons."

Written and pictured by George Wharton Edwards. Moffat, Yard & Co., of New York. \$5 net.

The author of this beautiful and most interesting work speaks of it as being a description of summer travel wanderings in the byways of Brittany. That these wanderings led to an intimate acquaintance with one of the most romantic countries of Europe, a land of granite, of mighty oaks and of druidical remains; a land of valleys, of dolmen, of cromlechs, a land of legend and superstition, is most apparent in the casual as well as the critical reader.

The five departments of Brittany are mentioned by Mr. Edwards as Cotes du Nord, Finistere, Morbihan, Ile-et-Vilaine and Loire Inferieure. His chapter text begins with Saint Malo and Saint Servan; Saint Malo, the corsair city of Brittany, with the houses built by old East India merchants overtopping the rampart and looking down upon the moat, with its eight gates and Chateaubriand's tomb on nearby Grand Bay island; Saint Servan, with its silent, dusty streets, its Tour de l'Horloge, dating from the reign of Duke John of Brittany, its Corpus Christi and Assumption Day processions.

A chapter is devoted to Dinan and Rennes. Dinan is recommended as an ideal spot for the householder, a place where comfortably furnished houses may be rented for the year, including clearing, garden and plenty of fruit. Rennes, the ancient capital of the Duchy of Brittany, is characterized as the ugliest, stupidest and dullest town in Brittany.

Lamballe, says Mr. Edwards, calls to mind a vision of the lovely and unfortunate princess, who perished during the Revolution. About ten miles from Lamballe, he continues, is the small and ancient town of Montcontour, perched upon a walled, rocky, moss-clad promontory, like an island, and crowned by a charming tower and battlements. An interesting bit of tradition links Saint-Etienne, capital of the department of Cotes-du-Nord, with Brioc, driven from Wales with a large number of Irish, to settle in Brittany on the land upon which Saint-Etienne now stands.

In Saint Nicholas des rochers, a picturesque town on the river Blavet, the trees are covered with mistletoe, here called "la herbe de la croix." The famous fair, at which the young girls sell their hair to the Paris merchants, is held here, and on the Sunday following the fair is the celebration of the patron saint, who takes the whole day. A notable pilgrimage, from which Mr. Edwards writes, is that of the Bon Secours, on the Saturday before the first Sunday in July, inaugurated by a torchlight procession in the evening and strange rites only held in the dark.

He tells, moreover, of the starting of the Icelandic fleet of fishing vessels and their Breton crews on the twentieth of each February, for the fishing banks in the polar seas and the grand banks of Newfoundland, from Paimpol and other smaller towns on the Bay of Saint-Brieuc. The Breton painter, Rouan, Treguier, is mentioned as a picturesque agglomeration of roofs and chimneys, and trees and walls, over which, piercing the sky, is the beautiful spire of the cathedral. Saint Yves is claimed by the Bretons of this district as the superior of all saints, one able to grant relief for all trouble and sorrow. Lannion is said to be in the very heart of one of the most interesting districts of Brittany. And not far from Lannion, along by the shore, may be seen "the blessed lake of Avalon, where falls not hail nor rain nor any snow" and where, as the Breton legend has it, King Arthur is buried.

A wasteland, once covered with a dense forest, on the way to Morlaix, is said to be the place where King Arthur saw the dragon. At Morlaix, tradition has it, according to Mr. Edwards, that Drennath, the disciple of Joseph of Arimathea, preached the gospel to the Bretons, and that Mary, Queen of Scots, who spent some time here soon after her marriage, worshipped at the Church of Notre Dame du Mur, now demolished. "Rosgol, I found," writes Mr. Edwards, to be the saddest, most deserted and most lonely place in Brittany. In the same chapter, with Rosgol, descriptions are equally new of Saint Pal and De Leon.

Otherwise interest is caught by what is written regarding the country of the cavaliers, regarding the Pardon of St. Anne, the Island of Tristan, the Chapel of St. Bernard, regarding ancient houses, the galeaty after the Pardon, a wedding feast, the history of Chateau Neuf and much else. The characteristics of the Breton people and their simple, sincere hospitality are interwoven with the mention of their homes on every page.

An appendix to the book contains a list of the Pardons of Brittany, with dates of their celebration, and some notes of interest to the traveler. The book contains 152 illustrations, many of them in color, and is handsomely gotten out as to type and covers.

In what it relates and what it suggests.

## Baby's Voice

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gests, the volume is a real work of art and will rank high among the gift editions of works of its kind. Everything that is associated with the Bretons, their customs, their dress and their traditions, is extremely fascinating, and the author of the book under discussion has caught the spirit of its allurements and reflected it marvelously well.

### "The Mistress of Shennstone."

By Florence L. Barclay, author of "The Rosary." G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York and London. \$1.35 net.

Written by the same author, "The Mistress of Shennstone" is not in any sense a sequel to "The Rosary," though acquaintance is renewed with Myra, Lady Ingleby of Shennstone, Jane Daiman and others.

The story opens on the terrace of Shennstone, where Lady Shennstone, accompanied by her husband's little daughter, was pacing to and fro, both in rather a depressed frame of mind over the absence on the frontier of India of the husband of one and master of the other, Lord Shennstone, engaged actively in distant border warfare, because he was anxious to personally observe the effect of explosives which he had invented for the revolutionizing of some of the methods of advanced warfare.

A telegram brought to Lady Shennstone apprised her of the coming for a night of Dr. Deryck Brand, a great nerve specialist from London, who telegraphed her that he was visiting a patient in her neighborhood and invoked the hospitality of Shennstone. He came, and he and Lady Shennstone had a long and confidential talk, in which she confessed that she had never been allowed to develop into the full flower of womanhood, her mother and her husband always treating her as a child, only her husband had been tenderly affectionate to her, and her mother had not. But she had never entered into her husband's engrossments and interests, never felt that he had considered her more than a being to whom he should accord every care and protection.

Before she had quite finished all she wished to say, Lady Ingleby learned the real reason why so important a personage as Dr. Brand was giving her so generous a part of his day. A disbeliever from that he was visiting the news of Lord Ingleby's death in an assault on Targal, India, a mistake in signaling having caused a premature explosion of mines which he was superintending. Dr. Brand was present to help her hear her true.

The War Office tried to keep secret the name of the man through whose error Lord Ingleby's life was lost. His widow said that she did not wish to know anything about the matter, and so his identity was kept in obscurity. The man was James Alrith, the Earl of Monteth, the owner of vast estates in Scotland.

He came back to England and went to a quiet place on the coast of Cornwall to recover his health. To this place the mistress of Shennstone was sent also by Dr. Brand, that she might grow strong and well again. But she went under an assumed name. And the name of Monteth registered himself simply as James Alrith.

Without the disclosure of real identity in either case, the man and woman knew and loved each other. Later complications hard to be brushed aside arose. But Florence Barclay is a writer of real romance, and this one ended as a honeymoon began at Moorehead Inn on the Cornish coast, and by a bride's celebrating it through inscribing a new name, after a fashion of her own, in the visitors' book of the inn.

Full of sentiment and romance and brimming over with the potentialities of life, this book, like "The Rosary,"

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is calculated to preserve and increase the popularity of its author. It will be a second exemplification of the fact that there are many people who prefer a novel, and simple, to any amount of subtle analysis and problem making.

### "Rest Harrow."

By Maurice Hewlett. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York. \$1.50.

Maurice Hewlett, remarkable at first for the beauty and realism of his old English stories, has since become a figure in the English literary world at large, where the brilliancy and finish of his style have commended him to American as well as English readers.

"Rest Harrow" is one of a series of books with reference to characters and motives that also appear in "The Open Country" and "The Halfway House." The death of Ingram's wife in "Rest Harrow" leaves Ingram free. He offers, after awhile, to marry Sanchia, who has been filling the role of housekeeper for him, but his offer is casually made, months later, and it was possible, and Sanchia rejects it. Her thoughts fly back to the days of her happy acquaintance with Senhouse.

It is in the meantime has become entangled in love affairs with Mary Gerniam, who is far too civilized and conventional, however, to enter into and sympathize with Senhouse's vagaries and pursuits.

So in the end, the matter resolves itself into a marriage between Sanchia and Senhouse, whose irrepressible affinity promotes union, even though obstacles have to be smoothed out of the way.

In one sense of the word "Rest Harrow" is a book. But it charms simply through the art of an author who is so openly artistic, that he falls to touch the sympathies of his public. One puts down "Rest Harrow" with a feeling of relief that Sanchia is finally disposed of, and that the novel she would, as a result, be no further consideration than the accorded Senhouse's flapping trousers and his bare feet.

### "The Master of the Vineyard."

By Fred. G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York. \$1.35 net.

There is a noticeable quality of uniqueness in this book or other novels by Myrtle Reed, its atmosphere being less filled with romance, less full of rapid changes from pathos to humor.

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### "Welcome to Our City"

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ness made more apparent by high lights is the chief characteristic of both.

### "A Successful Wife."

By G. Dorset. Harper & Bros., of New York. \$1.50.

The most natural question arising in the mind of the reader of "A Successful Wife" will be that relating to its authorship, whether it was written by a man or woman. It would seem that a woman could hardly depict a member of her sex as being so entirely self-effacing as Esther, the wife of Stephen Rickland, as represented to be. If a woman had been through the experiences described in the novel she would, as a result, be the last person in the world to talk of to write about them.

A man might enjoy saying to his wife: "Standing by my dear girl, always standing by me, like a star above a crossing—like a buoy out at the whirpool of life—like a torch at the danger of the mine—like a light-house star over the reef—but the wife is not on record who ever enjoyed the process of 'standing by'."

As a whole the story seems to resolve itself into a man and a woman of very different temperaments and widely differing social surroundings are married. The wife's influence in course of time cures the husband of drinking. But he has vagrant impulses which lead him astray time and again. Perhaps, if his wife had loved him wholeheartedly enough in the beginning she could have held him true to his allegiance. As it was, years had passed before she confessed herself unreservedly jealous, and miserably in love. And that was trying to lead up to. Anyway, it is best to think of him that way.

The book is altogether out of the common, and very well written, its types being original and clearly and crisply drawn.

### "The Key to Yesterday."

By Charles Neville Buck. W. J. Wadsworth, of New York. \$1.50.

A romance in which a man loses himself and only comes into full consciousness of a remote and recent past in time to prevent his doing a great wrong to the woman he loves best in the world.

The scenes of the book open at a Kentucky race track and dwell in the time amid the Kentucky mountains, before being transferred to South America and to Paris. The curious feature of the book is the real soul in the landscape painter, whose memory of all his past, previous to a few years' wandering, was picked up wounded and bleeding from the desert, Arizona, has lapsed, models himself on the works in art of a painter of the past, and in the end, finds himself in an earlier stage of his life.